

Dear Subscriber:

This Iowa DNR Water Quality Listserv is a subscription service that you have requested. Its purpose is to deliver timely water quality technical information directly to your email.

In this May 1, 2007 issue:

1. DNR Asks For Iowans' Help in Determining How Iowa's Streams Are Used For Recreation

DNR ASKS FOR IOWANS' HELP IN DETERMINING HOW IOWA'S STREAMS ARE USED FOR RECREATION

Survey available online

If you use Iowa's streams - whether fishing along a river or splashing around the creek in your backyard - the Iowa DNR is looking for your help.

The DNR is asking for input on how people recreate in Iowa's streams as the agency completes recreational assessments on streams in the state. Iowans can access a short survey at www.iowadnr.gov/water/standards/ to list the streams they use, what activities they use them for and where they access the streams. The survey is in addition to postcard surveys left at streamside residences as the DNR conducted on-site stream assessments.

The DNR will factor the results from the survey into its decision making for applying recreation-based stream designations to Iowa's waters. These assessments are part of classifying recreational stream uses in the state, and will help determine the appropriate level of protection for the stream.

"Water quality standards are essentially the goals for Iowa's waters," said Adam Schnieders, a DNR environmental specialist. "Use designations are one part of the standards, and they help us categorize water bodies by what they're used for - recreation, aquatic life, drinking water or a combination of those. These designated uses help dictate the level of protection afforded to a water body."

Schnieders asks that people submit surveys by May 15 to assist with the development of a new database, but encourages Iowans to submit information throughout the year as they visit different streams.

The DNR is currently revising its water quality standards to come into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act.

For more information, contact Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409, adam.schnieders@dnr.state.ia.us.